

Jane Henney
Why can't this be
corrected? Do sadistic men run
this govt? This is most disturbing
to the public - and our food for
healthy eating

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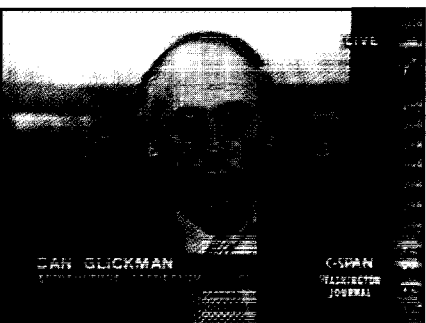
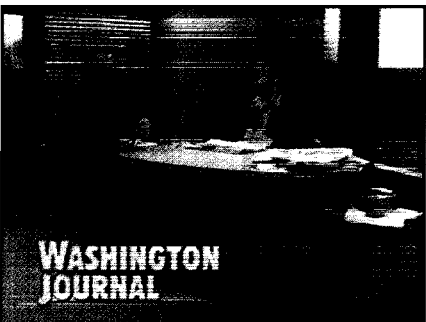
Virginia

Slaughterhouse Shockwaves



HFA's groundbreaking investigative exposé, *Slaughterhouse*, by Chief Investigator Gail Eisnitz, is awakening millions. Above, the explosive work is the feature story on national television.

USDA Secretary Dan Glickman on the hot seat — here being questioned about HFA's *Slaughterhouse*. Glickman concedes that enforcement of the Humane Slaughter Act is almost nonexistent.



HFA's landmark book *Slaughterhouse* is awakening a new generation of Americans to the abuses perpetuated by the U.S. meat-packing industry.

Slaughterhouse has quickly become the authoritative reference for anyone interested in the treatment of farm animals. The news media are broadcasting HFA's findings, members of Congress have called for federal reforms — even President Clinton's cabinet member, USDA Secretary Dan Glickman, has stated the book is being carefully read by government officials and meat inspectors.

HFA is currently working hard not only to educate people — but also to halt the abuses we have so carefully documented. ■

Congressman: Animals Slaughtered While Conscious

Associated Press

Washington Livestock are routinely skinned, dismembered or scalded while still conscious despite a law that requires animals to be knocked out before they are slaughtered, says a Congressman who helped strengthen the law 20 years ago.

In a recent letter to the Agriculture Department, Representative George Brown, D-San Bernardino, alleged that packing plant workers "often find themselves resorting to unbelievable brutality" to keep production lines moving, some as fast as 1,100 animals per hour.

Brown, a senior member of the House Agriculture Committee, urged Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman to "take whatever actions are necessary" to ensure that the law is enforced.

His statement was based on allegations of USDA inspectors and a recent book, "*Slaughterhouse*," that is based on interviews over the past decade with workers at several plants.

The book quotes plant workers describing live hogs being dumped in scalding tubs and cattle being skinned or dismembered while still conscious. The workers say stun guns frequently fail to knock out the animals.

USDA officials, who are responsible for enforcing the law, deny widespread mistreatment of animals.

Representatives of the meat-packing industry say there is no incentive for them to slaughter conscious animals because the stress damages meat quality.

"We try to treat the hogs as gentle as we can prior to stunning because we get better quality meat," said Joseph Luter III, chief executive officer of Virginia-based Smithfield Foods, one of the nation's biggest packers. Smithfield slaughters 80,000 hogs a day at five plants.

The book's author, Gail Eisnitz of the Humane Farming Association, interviewed several workers at the Sioux Falls, S.D. plant before its takeover by Smithfield. One worker, an official in the local union, told her: "I've seen live animals shackled, hoisted, stuck, and skinned. Too many to count."

At a Smithfield plant in Bladen County, N.C., live hogs have been dumped in the scalding tub used to remove hair, Eisnitz wrote. The hogs are supposed to bleed to death before reaching the tub. Two current or former USDA employees say they have seen practices similar to those alleged in the book.

Steve Cockerham, an inspector in Nebraska, said USDA does not know whether animals are being slaughtered properly because inspectors are not stationed in that part of the plant....

Lester Friedlander, a former USDA veterinarian, said he has seen cattle bellowing and moving after they were supposed to be stunned, as well as live cows that were treated so roughly as they were moved into the plant that their skin was ripped off. "I can't believe we're here in 1999, and there's still abuse," he said.



• CAMPAIGN AGAINST FACTORY FARMING •

INSIDE:
HFA's
SUWANNA RANCH
— the World's Largest
Farm Animal Refuge

(Please see center page.)

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1550 CALIFORNIA STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94109

Pork Industry Dealt Major Setback — *HFA Lawsuit Challenges Massive Hog Factory*

As we go to press, the fate of what would be the third largest pork factory in the nation has been called into question by a groundbreaking HFA lawsuit. So far, there have been two significant court rulings.

In the first court case, before a federal judge in Washington, D.C., HFA scored a major victory. In a second court decision, this one before a judge in South Dakota, our opponents prevailed. What will happen next no one can predict. But everyone agrees that the stakes are very high.

Background:

The public at large is becoming more aware of the cruelty and environmental hazards associated with large, intensive confinement pork factories. Millions have been made aware by HFA's documentation of industry abuses. HFA's exposés, for instance, have now been repeatedly broadcast on major network news programs, including *60 Minutes*.

Many other people have become aware of the extent of the problem after having their communities poisoned by pollution generated by nearby hog factories.

With this increasing level of public awareness, agribusiness is looking for locations where it can sidestep environmental laws and community opposition. And that has now brought agribusiness to Indian reservations.



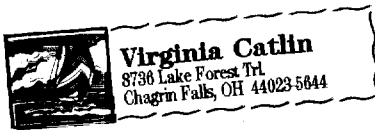
Breeding sows on factory farms suffer most of their lives locked in narrow metal crates.

Because of the high level of poverty, some tribal leaders appear willing to bring in almost any business that might create income. Indian land appeals to agribusiness corporations because they can more easily sidestep environmental laws.

Current Battle:

Bell Farms, the large agribusiness pork company headquartered in North Dakota, is presently racing to construct a huge facility on the land held in trust for the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. This facility, which was temporarily halted by the government following HFA's lawsuit, would have an output of 859,000 hogs per year. And it would create a *daily* raw sewage load equivalent to that of 3,436,000 humans — the waste produced by a city seven times the size of Denver.

(Continued on page 9)



FDA Commissioner Jane Henney
5600 Fisher Lane
Room 14-71
Rockville, Md. 20857

Refer Docket 99P-0033/CP 1

